

Churches w  
Jewish

Rabbi Murray Berger 109  
United Hebrew Congregation

2:04



\*NO

VIDEO (pics)

Terre Haute has a significant Jewish population that has been recorded as far back as 143 years ago. The earliest building of Temple Israel was at Fourth and Swan in 1823.

Temple B'nai Abraham was named after Abraham Levin father of Meyer, Morris, Max and Isaac Levin. In 1886 the Temple rented a hall at 11th and Wabash for the 16 members to meet. Building sites were later at 12th and Swan; 12th and Mulberry, and 5th and Poplar.

Temple Israel and Temple B'nai Abraham were joined together on January 8, 1936, with the first meeting of United Hebrew Congregation. The consolidation was made through this leadership of Benjamin Blumberg.

United Hebrew Congregation in Terre Haute was the first complete integrated synagogue in the United States with worship for both Reform and Orthodox Jews.

2:04

History:

DO NOT CIRCULATE

The Jewish community of Terre Haute formally begins in 1849 with the purchase of burial grounds and the gathering of a "chevra kadisha" a burial society. Nine years later the community had grown from its original 8 to 10 families to warrant the formation of a congregation. The first meeting of that congregation called Terre Haute Zion Gemeinde was on May 2, 1858. In 1882 the congregation became Temple Israel, with services held in rented quarters until 1890 when a building at Fourth and Swan was purchased.

Temple B'nai Abraham was organized in 1889, with its first permanent site at 12th and Mulberry purchased in 1907. Both Temple Israel and B'nai Abraham later built new synagogues, the former at 540 South Sixth Street in 1911, and the later in 1925 at Fifth and Poplar. In 1935 Temple Israel and B'nai Abraham formally merged and became the United Hebrew Congregation of Terre Haute.

Present Structure:

United Hebrew Congregation is affiliated with the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, the organization of Reform congregations. Its Rabbis come from the Hebrew Union College, the Reform seminary in Cincinnati, New York, Los Angeles, and Jerusalem. The "siddur", or prayer book used is the Gates of Prayer, published by the Central Conference of American Rabbis, the Reform rabbinical organization.

Services:

Sabbath services are generally held each Friday evening throughout the year at 8:00 pm. The once monthly Family Service begins at 7:30 pm. There is no seating or dress requirement, and both guests and members are free to participate in whatever manner is most comfortable. Those guests or members who wish to wear "kipot", the traditional male head covering may find them inside the sanctuary in boxes beneath the "tallit", or prayer shawls.

Sanctuary:

The two reading desks on the "bima", or stage, come from the two original congregations. The Ark in the center of the rear wall contains five "Torah" scrolls, each of which are handwritten parchment manuscripts of the first five books of Scripture (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy.) The covers for the Torah scrolls were needlepointed by members of the congregation, and as they are held in the Ark, their Hebrew reads: "Know before whom you stand." The fifth Torah, used during a Torah reading has the four-letter name of God written on its cover.



The two standing "menoras", the seven branched candlesticks, are the traditional symbol of Judaism. They are modeled on the descriptions of the menoras which were in the Tabernacle in the Desert and the Temple in Jerusalem.

The twin candles which are lit at the beginning of the Friday Night Sabbath Service are symbolic of the candles lit and blessed in Jewish homes at sundown Friday, the beginning of Shabbat. As the candles and wine are blessed and shared in the home, so at our Friday Night Sabbath celebration we repeat this Shabbat custom.

#### Prayer Book and Hebrew:

The Gates of Prayer opens right to left, "Hebrew"-style. You will note that many of the prayers and readings are in Hebrew as well as in English. Whenever Hebrew is read during the service the English is usually read as well. In any case, translations are printed in the book so that the service may be easily followed.

#### Membership:

Members of United Hebrew Congregation are Jewish families who are affiliated with the synagogue through yearly dues. These are assessed through cooperative decisions between the member family and the membership committee. Because the congregation is funded through yearly dues there is no collections of donations during or after the service.

#### Affiliated Groups:

The congregation runs a Religious School for children 4 years through Confirmation (10th grade), offers a Hebrew school for 5th through 7th graders, and a variety of Adult Education classes and activities. Life cycle events are arranged by the member family with the rabbi.

The Federation of Jewish Women meets monthly at the Temple, and is a joint organization affiliated with the National Council of Jewish Women, Hadassah, and the U.A.H.C. National Sisterhood.

Through the Union of American Hebrew Congregations the synagogue is part of the National Federation of Temple Youth, Brotherhoods, and Union Camping system, as well as a national network of educational, social and liturgical programming.

#### Rabbi:

Rabbi Joseph P. Klein came to Terre Haute in the summer of 1978 from St. Louis where he was Assistant Rabbi at Temple Israel. He was ordained and received a Master of Hebrew Letters from Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati. His B.A. degree is from Oberlin College.

Further information can be obtained from Rabbi Klein at the Temple Office. Weekly office hours are from 9 am to 1 pm, Monday through Friday, 232-5988.



RABBI EMIL W. LEIPZIGER  
TOURO SYNAGOGUE  
NEW ORLEANS

Churches (w) Temple  
Israel  
Jewish

Community Affairs File

May 6, 1943

REFERENCE  
DO NOT CIRCULATE

VIGO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY  
TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

Mr. A. R. Markle  
834 James St.  
Jacksonville, Fla.

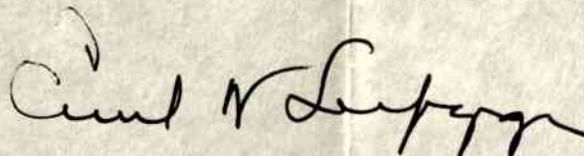
Dear Mr. Markle:

I can answer one of your questions with reference to Terre Haute. After Rabbi Lyons left Terre Haute in 1895 a Rabbi Deinard occupied the pulpit until 1900. Rabbi Deinard went to a Conservative Congregation in Chicago and has since passed away. His widow lives in Minneapolis and one of his sons, Amos is though practically blind a very successful lawyer and quite a leader in national Jewish affairs.

You have mentioned the important people who were living and acting in community life during my sojourn in Terre Haute. You mention Jonas Strouse. He was my wife's uncle.

Now in regard to the other congregation now merged with Temple Israel. You might get in touch with Mr. Ben Blumberg. It was his father who made the dying bequest which brought about the merging of the two congregations. Perhaps you might also query the present incumbent of Temple Israel's pulpit, Rabbi Taxay. Trusting all this will be helpful to you, I remain,

Yours sincerely,



Emil W. Leipziger



VIGO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY  
TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

Community Affairs File

REFERENCE  
DO NOT CIRCULATE

First Completely Integrated Synagog in the United  
States Effected in Terre Haute

The Terre Haute Jewish community is almost as old as Terre Haute itself. Mention of Jewish settlers is to be found in the Terre Haute press before 1823. Jewish life in Terre Haute can be traced back at least 110 years.

Jewish practice requires a minimum of 10 persons to establish a congregation. It is, therefore, reasonably certain that a Jewish congregation existed in Terre Haute early in the nineteenth century. The minutes recording proceedings of Temple Israël date back to 1854.

One of the early buildings, Temple Israel, was at Fourth and Swan. The congregation leader and teacher was a Mr. Arnold, who served the community for several years. The first rabbi, graduate of an American university and seminary, was the Rev. Dr. Alexander Lyons, who officiated locally until called to the leading pulpit of Brooklyn, N. Y., where he now is minister-emeritus. Dr. Lyons was installed in the Temple Israel pulpit by the Rev. Dr. Isaac Mayer Wise, founder of American Judaism, the Hebrew Union College, Cincinnati, the Union of American Hebrew Congregations and the Central Conference of American Rabbis. Dr. Wise was the father-in-law of Adolph S. Ochs, publisher of the New York Times.

Dr. Lyons was succeeded by the Rev. Dr. Samuel Deinard, who was called to the pulpit of Minneapolis in 1900.

Rabbi Emil W. Leipziger officiated until 1913, when he accepted the pulpit of New Orleans, to which community he is still ministering. Rabbi Leipziger was followed by the Rev. Dr. Jacob H. Kaplan, presently of Miami, Fla., who in turn was succeeded by Rabbi I. E. Marcuson, and the Rev. Dr. Joseph L. Fink, now of Buffalo, N. Y. The incumbent, Rabbi J. Marshall Taxy, has been minister of Temple Israel since 1924 and of United Temple since the consolidation in 1935.



Temple B'nai Abraham was named after the father of Messrs. Meyer, Morris, Isaac and Max Levin. It was established in 1889 with a membership of 12 in a rented room at Twelfth and Wabash. The first president of the congregation was Aaron Goldberg, later of Linton, with Meyer Levin as vice-president. The social meetings took place in the hall on the second floor of the building at Eleventh and Wabash. Isaac F. Leventhall succeeded Mr. Goldberg in office. A site was purchased at Twelfth and Mulberry, upon which the synagog was erected in 1895 under the presidency of Meyer Levin, who headed the congregation for 40 years. Upon his retirement in 1931 he was elected honorary president for life, and was succeeded in the presidency by Ben Becker. Louis Brown served as president of the congregation for one term.

The sanctuary at Twelfth and Mulberry was sold in 1925 and a lot purchased at Fifth and Poplar. The present synagog was erected in 1926. The cornerstone was laid and the edifice dedicated by Rabbi J. Marshall Taxay under the administration of Meyer Levin, with John Tatelman as vice-president. The week-end school was founded over a decade and a half ago and is still headed by Morris Levin. Mrs. John Tatelman is secretary and David Hoffman, treasurer. Louis Brown presided over the organization for a number of years. In 1934, aided by a generous gift and endowment by the late Max Blumberg, steps were taken toward the consolidation of Temples Israel and B'nai Abraham under the leadership of his son, Benjamin Blumberg, then president of Temple Israel.

#### Amalgamation Completed

The amalgamation was completed in September, 1935, following the executive meeting of the boards of trustees of both congregations. The constitution for United Temple, a federation of Temples Israel and B'nai Abraham, was unanimously



adopted by the joint boards of trustees December 4 and approved by the congregation December 16.

The election of officers to govern the affairs of United temple took place at the meeting of the general membership January 8. The following were elected: Ben Blumberg, president; Isaac Silverstein, vice-president; Lewis R. Sutin, secretary; Phillip S. Kleeman, treasurer; Alfred Strouse, Harry N. Levin, Lucien Meis, Harrison Berkowitz and Frank J. Wolfe were elected to the board of trustees of United Temple.

United Temple is the first completely integrated synagog in the United States. Considerable space has been given to this undertaking by the Jewish press. Many inquiries have reached the local leadership concerning the details of the consolidation of the Jewish community of Terre Haute.

Some of the activities of United Temple are: In Temple Israel, 540 South Sixth Street. Friday evening worship, sermon or lecture, 7:45 o'clock. United Temple school Sunday morning, 10 o'clock. Study circle every Tuesday, 2 p. m. Boy Scout troup No. 5, every Tuesday, 7:30 p. m.; Council of Jewish Women, first Monday, 2:30 p. m.; B'nai B'rith Gan Eden lodge, first Monday, 7:45 p. m.; Temple Sisterhood, third Monday, 2:30 p. m.; Council of Jewish Juniors, second Sunday, 2:30 p. m.

In B'nai Abraham, Fifth and Poplar streets. Daily services, 6 a. m. Week day school (Talmud Torah), daily, 4 to 6 p. m. Saturday services, 7 a. m. and 5 p. m. United school and parents' Sabbath worship, 10:30 a. m. Temple Ladies' auxiliary, second Monday, 2:30 p. m. Zionist organization, Maccabee Gate, third Wednesday, 7:45 p. m.

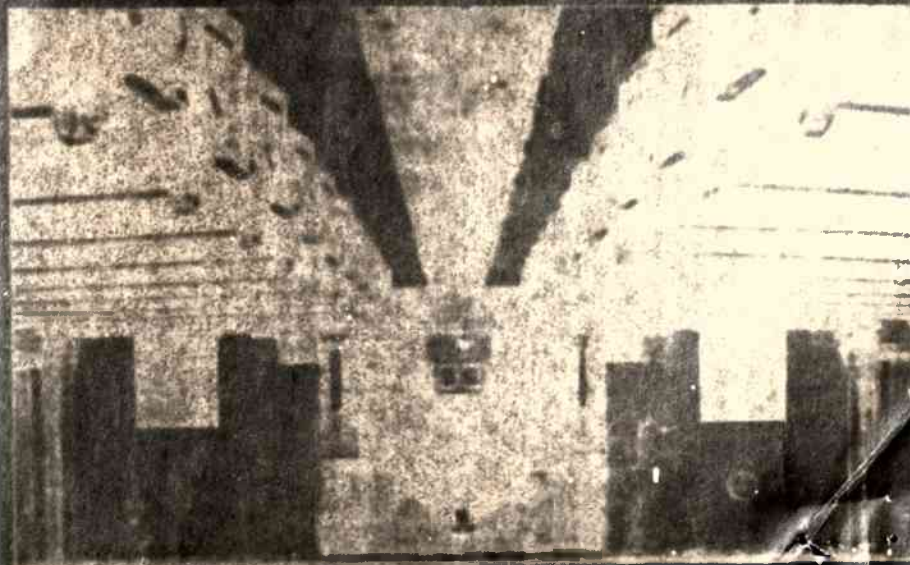
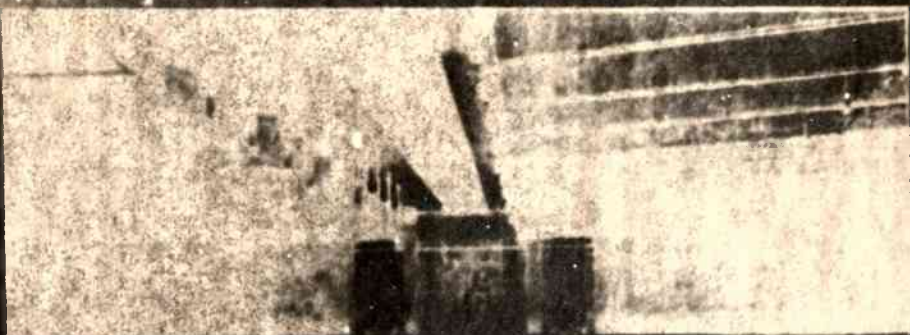
The living past presidents of the former Temple Israel are Leo Joseph, Carl Wolf and Alfred Strouse, of the former Temple B'nai Abraham, Louis Brown and Ben Becker. The sisterhood is led by Mrs. Lucille L. Joseph, the auxiliary by



Mrs. Bess L. Berkowitz, united temple brotherhood by Lewis R. Sutin, united temple youth by Max Granek, united temple school senate by Hinda Miriam Becker.



AUDITORIUM AS SEEN FROM PULPIT





Churches wv  
Jewish

# DEDICATE TEMPLE WITH CEREMONIES

New Home of B'Nai Abraham the Realization  
of Dream of Many Years

Taken from the Terre Haute Tribune August 29, 1927

Elaborate and impressive ceremonies lasting from 2 o'clock in the afternoon until 10 o'clock at night, marked the dedication of the new Jewish temple, B'nai Abraham at Fifth and Poplar streets yesterday.

The dedication of Terre Haute's newest house of worship brought to a realization a dream fostered by the members of the B'nai congregation for a period extending over many years and will forever remain a monument to the faith and love which the members of that congregation bear their church.

The B'nai Abraham congregation was first organized in 1886, less than a score of worshipers comprising its membership at that time. Its first home was in a small rented hall at Eleventh street and Wabash avenue, but even at that early date, the same spirit of deep faith in their worship was manifested in that small gathering as was manifested by the dedication exercises of the new \$75,000 structure, which at once takes its place as among the most notable of Terre Haute's houses of worship. Later the congregation moved to Twelfth and Swan streets, and still later a temple was built at Twelfth and Mulberry streets, where a site had been purchased. The new temple, however represents an effort looked forward to through all these years and will care for the needs of the congregation for many years to come.

The exercises yesterday took the form of the dedication proper during the afternoon, an elaborate supper at 6:30 o'clock, followed by the usual festivities following the dedication of a new temple.

SING "STAR SPANGLED BANNER."

The opening song of the afternoon, "The Star Spangled Banner," was sung by the entire congregation and this was followed by the invocation by Rabbi R.B. Hershen of Temple B'nai Abraham. Louis Brown, chairman of the board of directors, then presented the temple keys to Meyer Levin, president of the temple, both making short addresses in keeping with the ceremony. The reading of an original poem by Miss Dorothy Berkowitz was then followed by a chant, "How Goodly Are Thy Tents," by Rabbi Hershen and the religious school. The religious school also sang "We Meet Again in Gladness," at this time.

REFERENCE  
DO NOT CIRCULATE

VIGO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

Community Affairs File



Rev. Leon Hershon, of Chester, Pa., a brother of Rabbi R. B. Hershon, who had been specially invited to attend the dedicatory exercises, then offered a prayer, and this was followed by musical selections by the orchestra, a vocal selection by Mrs. Elsie Silverstein, and an address by Mayor Ora Davis.

Mayor Davis congratulated the congregation on its achievement and on the faith which it had shown over the long period of years, which had finally resulted in the raising of the beautiful edifice in which the congregation could offer its services to God.

#### LIGHT, PERPETUAL LIGHT.

Following Mayor Davis address came the solemn rite of delivering the scrolls and locking the arch. This portion of the exercises was the most impressive and solemn of the dedication and consisted of praying and singing and the lighting of the church and the perpetual light. Silent devotional prayer preceded the locking of the arch and this was followed by the chanting of several hymns.

Short addresses by Rabbi J. Marshall Taxay of Temple Isreal, Benjamin Blumberg, and A.N. Levin, were then followed by the extension of greetings by Carl Wolf, president of Temple Isreal and Mrs. John Tatelman, president of the ladies' auxiliary.

This part of the ceremony was closed by a vocal offering by Mrs. Elsie Silverstein and then came the principal address of the afternoon by the Rabbi R.B. Hershon.

Rabbi Hershon's talk was a plea to his congregation to live up to the traditions and ideals of Israel to live this life with a purpose, that purpose being to bring holiness to all the world.

"We have been accused that we are a people of vagabonds, a shifting race, wanderers from pole to pole, aimless! We have been accused of purposeless lives, a life that is void of those principals that bring vitality and endurance, but rather a life that is solely dependent on others." said Rabbi Hershon.

#### JEWISH LIFE FULL OF PURPOSE.

"We are, rather specifically instructed that our life must be full of purpose, Israel must have an aim! Israel must have a holy Sabbath! Israel must carry forth the light of the law! Israel must be guardian of the ideal! Israel must be holy, and when the will of God was that we were to go forth and wander, there was a specific design in his route through the ages and the lands. Israel carried with him a gift and showered this gift on those who would destroy him.



"That gift is holiness! Holiness my friends, means that life with all its sordidness and bleakness, life with its trials and tribulations, life with its disillusion and demands, becomes the sweet drink of life's joyous cup, when we pour into it a bit of that holiness.

"Holiness is not the chant of the voice. Holiness is not the ceremonies at the shrine. Holiness is not the mass worship at the altar. Holiness is not the signs and dogmas of religion. Holiness is not the laws and statutes of the book. Holiness is the sweet joy of love, the sweet joy of a complete understanding of life with a union that is warp and woof of God. 'Be ye holy even as I am,' means that God wants Israel to live with a purpose and that having this purpose Israel becomes the gift bearer to a people who would otherwise look upon the heavens and curse life because of its unholiness."

Rabbi Hershon's address was followed by the singing of "Ein Keloheinu" in the Hebrew and then the pronouncing of the benediction which ended the afternoon services.

At the 6:30 o'clock supper, served by the ladies of the auxiliary, Rabbi Hershon acted as toastmaster, calling on Mayor Ora Davis, Sam Beecher, Rev. Leon Hershon, Ben Becker, Mrs. John Tatelman, Mrs. Carl Wolf, and several others for short talks.

Rabbi Taxay, of Temple Israel, pronounced the benediction ending the festivities which followed one of the most beautiful dedicatory exercises which Terre Haute has ever seen.



Churches w  
Jewish

B'nai ABRAHAM CONGREGATION DEDICATES  
ITS NEW SYNAGOGUE HERE THIS AFTER-  
NOON

Taken from the Terre Haute Sunday Star-August 28, 1927

Completion of the fourth, most beautiful and most complete home ever possessed by the B'nai Jewish congregation will be marked at 2 o'clock this afternoon with a dedication program held in the new synagogue at Fifth and Popular streets, followed with a dinner in the evening for members and their visiting friends.

This program will include numerous vocal and instrumental musical selections, addresses by prominent persons and ceremonies fittingly dedicating the new temple to its religious purpose. Those who have labored in the construction of the new edifice and also their friends who will be present to congratulate them will be heard in short addresses, the following being among the speakers:

Rabbi R.B. Hershon, Louis Brown, Chairman of the board of directors of the congregation, Meyer Levin, President of the congregation: the Rev. Leon Hershon, Chester, Pa., Ora Davis, mayor of the city of Terre Haute; Judge John P. Jefferies of the Vigo County Circuit Court, Rabbi J. Marshall Taxay of the Temple Israel congregation, Benjamin Blumberg, A.N. Levin, Carl Wolf, president of the Temple Israel congregation and Mrs. John Tatelman, president of the Temple Abraham Womens' Auxiliary

Program for Ceremony

The complete program for the dedication ceremony will be as follows:

Part One

Opening Song--"Star Spangled Banner"  
Invocation--Rabbi R.B. Hershon  
Address and Presentation of Temple Keys--Louis Brown, chairman of board directors  
Acceptance of Temple Keys--Meyer Levin, president of Temple B'nai Abraham  
Poem--Miss Berkowitz, granddaughter of President Levin  
Chant--"How Goodly Are Thy Tents" -- Rabbi Hershon and Religious School  
Hymn--"We Meet Again in Gladness"--Religious School

Part Two

Entering into temple  
Prayer--The Rev. Leon Hershon, Chester, Pa.  
Music--Orchestra  
Vocal Selection--Mrs. Elsie Silverstein  
Address--Mayor Davis

REFERENCE  
DO NOT CIRCULATE

VIGO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY  
TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

Community Affairs File



Part Three

Offering of Honors  
Hymn "God Is In His Holy Temple"--Religious School  
Delivery of the Law  
Prayer and Chant--Rabbi Hershon and Religious School

Part Four

Address--Judge Jeffries  
Address--Rabbi Taxay  
Address--Benjamin Blumberg  
Hymn, "Morn in Its Spendor"--Religious School

Part Five

Address--A.N. Levin  
Greetings--Carl Wolf, president Temple Israel  
Greetings--Mrs. John Tatelman, president of Ladies Auxilary  
Vocal Solo--Mrs. Elsie Silverstein  
Address--Rabbi R.R. Hershon  
"Ein Keineinu"--Congregation  
Benediction--Rabbo Hershon

The religous organization now known as the Congregation B'nai Abraham was former in 1886., when 15 men banded themselves together with H.G. Goldberg who later removed to Linton, Ind. as their first president. A small hall at Eleventh street and Wabash avenue was rented as a place of worship. After the congregation had grown in strength a building was obtained at Twelfth and Swan streets.

Meyer Levin President

Meyer Levin who is now president of the congregation, was selected 10 years after its first organization and has since served continuously. It was chiefly through his efforts and those of I.F. Leventhall, then vice president, that the third home was acquired by the purchase of a site at Twelfth and Mulberry streets and the erection of a building upon it. Again the growth of the congregation made another home necessary and this third synagogue was sold several years ago in preparation for the erection of the present new synagogue.

Work of raising funds for this new building erected at a cost of \$75,000, has been carried on by a committee headed by Ben Becker chairman and composed of the board of directors. The congregation now has 100 members and conducts a religious school with an attendance of 75 pupils after the regular public school hours.

Directors of the organization are: The Rabbi R.B. Hershon, Meyer Levin president of the congregation, John Tatleman, vice resident of the congregation; Louis Brown, chairman of the board; Samuel Smith, treasurer of congregation; Benjamin Boradsky, secretary of the congregation; Ben Becker, Max Levin, Benjamin Manfield, Mrs. John Tatelman, Max Meyers, David Hoffman, Morris Levin and Mrs. Benjamin Manfield.



### Member of the Congregation

Members of the congregation are H. Abels, I. Abels, Ben Abrams, Ike Ades, S. Ades, Ben Becker, Ben Blumberg, Frank Becker, Elias Berkowitz, Max Berkowitz, Ben Broadksky, L. Brown, I. Buchalter, - Julius Cooper; A. Dumas, I Eddis, Sarah Frandzel, M. Fader, M.E. Fishman, I Fishman, J. Fishman, A. Goldberg. H. G. Goldberg, William Goldberg, Charles Goodman, I Goodman, J. Goodman, J. Graff, Wolf Granek, Ben Grossman, William Grossman, I. Gurman, David Hoffman, William HOrstein, Jake Hulamn, Abe Issacs, M. Issacson, A. Krasner, Morris Krasner, A. Landsbuam S. Larman, A. Lebin, I.F. Leventhall, I.P. Levin, Louis Levin, Max Levin, Lm. Madiel, Max Mandel, Ben Manfield, L. Marton, Phillip Moser, M.N. Myers, Ben Onkin, Louis Phillips, Paul Plosf, Sam Rappaport, Ed Rosenfield, Morris Rosenfield, H. Rubin, Nathan Rubin, Harry Schiff, S. Schulman, Abe Schultz H. Schultz, Alex Schwartz, Ben Schwartz, H. Schwartz, Dave Shatsky, Max Shower, Philip Shower, Philip Silver, E. Silverberg, L. Silverman, Sig Simon, S.I. Smith, I. Steiger, J. Steiger, Myer Smolinsky, C.M. Stern, Max Sussman, Abe Siegel, J. Shcultz, John Tatelman, Morris Tatelman, J.I. Tucker, A Wasser- man, A. Weissman, Ben Wexler, Frank Wolf and F. Zlotnik.

Date when the ladies auxiliary of the tẽmple was first form- ed is unknown but it is well remembered as always having been a active in the interests of the congregation first under the name of Ladies Aid Society. Its first president was Mrs. Samuel Ades, who was well aided by Mrs. Max Levin, Mrs. Elias Berkowitz and others. The chief interest of the auxiliary, the name of which was changed two years ago, is the religious school.

#### Mrs. Tatelman President

Mrs. John Tatelman is now president, Mrs. M.N. Myers, vice president; Mrs. M.N. Myers, vice president; Mrs. Benjamin Man- field, secretary; Mrs. Philip Showers, treasurer, and Mrs. Max Levina dnMrs. Hyman Rubin, a committee appointed to work together with the board of education.

The board of education which cares for the affairs of the school of 75 pupils taught by Rabbi and Mrs. R.B. Hershon, in- cludes the following: Louis Brown, chairman; Ben Becker, Ben Man- field, Mrs. Hyman Rubin, M.L. Levin, John Tatelman and Mrs. Max Le- vin. This school is now very up to date due largely to the efforts of Rabbi J. Marshall Taxay of Temple Israel and Mrs. Paul Plost who not long ago reorganized it.



## PIONEERS OF HEBRAIC COMMUNITY ORGANIZE SMALL REFORMED CHURCH

Although a number of Jewish pioneers came to this city during the rush to the western states where the announcement was made that gold had been discovered, it was not until after 1850 that the tide of emigration brought to Terre Haute those families which became the real founders of the Jewish community, whose activities and spirit were the source of the vitality of all Jewish organizations which have sprung up in the course of years. Almost ten years elapsed before these families felt any consciousness of organized communal need. In 1868 Gan Eden Lodge No. 110, Independent Order of B'nai Brith was organized and received a charter.

For ten years the community lived organized in this way, gaining its inspiration for Jewish activity from the ideals of the Independent Order of B'nai Brith and the spirit of the Ladies' Aid society.

In the fall of the year 1882, however, the religious spirit of the community expressed itself more clearly and at the urging of Max Joseph, one of the pioneers of the community, and August Goodman, one of the younger men, a reform congregation was organized. In all probability, it was in recognition of their leadership that Max Joseph became president and August Goodman the secretary of the newly formed congregation.

As far as the records show, the following are the charter members: Max Herbst, Lee Seligsberger, A. Herz, Simon Hirschler, Louis Rothschild, Jonas Strouse, Enos Strouse, S. Loeb, Theo Frank, Philip Schloss, S. Uffenheimer, Herz Strauss, Aaron Strouse, Judy Spiegel, E. Rothschild, L. Goodman, S. L. Strauss.

### Goldman Conducts Services.

The old burial association was consolidated with the new organization, and in January the services of David Goldman were engaged in the capacity of officiating member to conduct services and to teach the Sabbath school. Mr. Goldman was a lawyer and justice of peace, residing in the city, and accepted the office. Previous to his assumption of these duties, the services were conducted by August Boodmanthe, first secretary, at a hall on the corner of Fifth and Ohio streets. In 1886 David Goldman died and services were conducted by members of the congregation, principally A. B. Felsenthal. It was not until the holy days of 1889 that the congregation conceived the idea of obtaining the services of a regularly ordained rabbi.

### Ordained Rabbi Takes Charge.

In the fall of 1889, Alexander Lyons, then a student at the Hebrew Union college, in a visit to the city, made a deep impression on the members of the congregation, and as a result steps were taken to purchase property that could be remodeled into a synagogue, with the further idea in view of calling Mr. Lyons as permanent rabbi. The hopes of the community were realized when the German Reformed church (420 South Fourth street) was purchased for \$3,600 in March, 1890, and when in January, 1891, Rabbi Lyons was called as rabbi of Temple Israel, as the new synagogue was named.



### Sewing Society Aids Church.

After the dedication of Temple Israel, a ceremony at which Dr. I. M. Wise officiated, the needs of the congregation called into being a number of subsidiary organizations for the purpose of furnishing the accessories of the place of worship. The only one of these societies which has lived to play an important part in the development of the congregation was the ladies' auxiliary, known as the Sewing society.

For years the organization which began under the leadership of Mrs. Herz Strauss, has supported the choir, has raised money for the purpose of beautifying the temple has been the promoter of the great fairs that were held in the past and of the annual bazaars which now are given with a view of building in the near future a new place of worship. The present chief officer of the Sewing society is Mrs. Lee Goodman. Meeting every week, the ladies of this organization have succeeded in forming not only a band of workers, but a social center.

### Council of Jewish Women Forms.

The pastorate of Rabbi Lyons extended to 1896, when Rabbi S. N. Deinard began to occupy the pulpit and did so with success until 1900. It was in the last year of his incumbency that another important organization was formed under his guidance and under the leadership of Miss Rebecca Torner, that was the local section of the Council of Jewish Women. For ten years the women of the Jewish community who were interested in the study of Jewish life and history and literature have banded themselves together for the purpose of such study. Since its beginning the local section has doubled its membership. During the last year a Chautauqua circle was formed in conjunction with the council. The present presiding officer is Mrs. A. Joseph. The membership is about forty-five. The local section has sent delegates to the last three triennial meetings of the national organizations, and only recently the Terre Haute section received national recognition when Mrs. Adolph Joseph was appointed a member of one of the national committees.

### Attempt To Bring State Meeting Here.

As an evidence of its activity, the council is preparing to make Terre Haute the place of a state reciprocity meeting in the fall. In 1905 a junior council section was begun under the guidance of Rabbi Leipsizer. At present the juniors are inactive. The present membership have outgrown the organization and in the coming season a new junior section will be organized of those who are graduated of the Sabbath school of the last four years.

### Congregation Flourishes.

At present the congregation has more than ninety members and is in a flourishing condition. The present officers are: President, H. T. Schloss, vice president; S. Hirschler; treasurer, S. Kleeman; secretary, Henry Wolff, overseer, L. Joseph. The trustees of the Temple Israel are: A. Herz, A. Levinson, A. Arnold, A. Goodman, J. Strouse, and L. Goodman.

Another important society of the church is the Hebrew Ladies Aid society, with a membership of about sixty. Mrs. A. Arnold is president of the Aid society, while Mrs. S. Kleeman is vice president.



Pioneers...

page 3

Active preparations are being made by the congregation of Temple Israel to erect a handsome new church on South Sixth street. The site for the edifice already has been purchased and within a short time it is expected that the plans will be completed and the construction work begun.



# Terre Haute 1976 Israel Bond Campaign Set Feb. 15

*Churches (T.H.) United Hebrew*

A community-wide supper will mark the official launching of an intensified 1976 campaign for the sale of State of Israel Bonds in Terre Haute to enable Israel to finance a program of greater economic development. It was announced by David Levin, General Chairman of the Terre Haute Committee for Israel Bonds. The supper will be held on February 15 at the United Hebrew Congregation.

The Terre Haute Israel Bond effort is part of a worldwide drive to provide Israel with vital investment capital to help build a strong economy as the basis for peace in the Middle East.

Toward this end, Levin said, the funds provided through the Bond drive will be used to advance agriculture, commerce, industry, and mining and to finance oil exploration and other new sources of energy for its growing economy.

With the return of the Abu Rudeis oil fields to Egypt Israel gave up the source of more than 50 per cent of its total annual oil needs. This has not only placed an additional financial burden of \$350 million on Israel's hard-pressed economy, he declared, but it has also dramatically heightened the need for immediate action to fill this big energy gap.

"Israel must increase its energy output to ensure the rapid development of industry

which will provide economic stability. Energy means strength to Israel — strength to develop its economy, strength to construct highways, seaports and public buildings, strength to run its merchant marine, national airline and railroad, and to extend its nationwide irrigation network," Mr. Levin explained.

Throughout the past twenty-five years, Israel Bonds have played a key role in stimulating the production of energy. Israel Bond dollars are being used to construct new power plants, including an electric power station with a 1,400 megawatt capacity. Israel's electrical capacity, which totalled only 70,000 kilowatts when Israel declared its independence in 1948, now amounts to 2,180,000 kilowatts.

Israel Bonds have aided in the discovery and exploitation of limited quantities of oil and natural gas and the construction of oil pipelines from Eilat to the Mediterranean coast. They have also been instrumental in expanding the facilities of the refinery at Haifa and establishing a new oil refinery at Ashdod. In addition, Bond funds have been largely responsible for a network of oil storage tanks at Eilat and other locations and are now participating in the financing of a new \$200 million project to double the country's oil storage capacity.

The need for increased Israel Bond funds for economic development is a consequence of serious financial difficulties resulting from overwhelming defense needs, which have produced a staggering balance of payments deficit in excess of \$3.5 billion in 1975, the chairman said.

Levin emphasized that financial aid from the U.S. Government will be used almost entirely for defense and that these funds will not cover more than two-thirds of Israel's record defense expenditures for this year.

The chairman stressed that, "in the weeks and months ahead, Israel, as it has in the past, will continued to rely on the proceeds from the sale of Israel Bonds to play a dominant role in helping to finance and implement its vital programs of development."

Since the inception of the Israel Bond program twenty-five years ago, proceeds of the sale of the bonds amounted to more than \$3.2 billion of which more than \$1.3 billion has already been redeemed, he said.

*Churches WV  
Jewish*

Community Affairs File

Vigo County Public Library

REFERENCE  
DO NOT CIRCULATE



# Jewish People Observe Passover

APR 27 1975

This is the time of passing of winter to spring.

For the Jewish people, observance of this period is The Passover, which started Wednesday evening and ending Thursday, April 3.

Services at the Temple of the United Hebrew Congregation will open Passover at 9 a.m. Thursday, the 'first day' services. At 6 p.m., there will be the congregational Seder.

Services closing the observance will be Thursday, April 3, the eighth day morning service.

+ + +

This is Pesach 5735 from 15 Nisan to 21 Nisan. More than any other holiday, Passover (Pesach) is filled with symbolism, reminding the Hebrews of slavery and freedom, the rebirth of nature, compassion for the needy and hope for a radiant future. Families gather on the first night to share in the ritual of repeating the story of the Jewish people's exodus from Egyptian bondage to freedom.

The seder, which combines almost every symbolic element of the Passover celebration, is conducted from the "Haggadah", one of the most widely printed and discussed books in all of the Jewish tradition.

Every aspect of the holiday rings forth with joy the winter is passed, that man is freed from the bondage of hibernation and slavery to the vagaries of rain and cold. Man's love for

woman, reawakened in spring time, is expressed in the synagogue reading of the Biblical book "Song of Songs".

+ + +

At the beginning of the home Seder service, a sprig of parsley, symbolizing the greenness of the spring, is dipped into salt water, reminding of the tears shed by the Hebrew forefathers in Egypt. The juxtaposition of the sorrow of the past and the hope of a regenerative spring typifies the Jew's concept of history: the most sorrowful episodes in our people's history are always concluded — even in readings from the prophets in the synagogue — on a note of hope.

Passover is the occasion for the family gathering. Usually, the message of freedom is recited from the "Haggadah". The "Haggadah" provides involvement for the children, who ask four questions about the holiday, as well as hunt for the 'afikomen', a dessert Matzah.

One of the most poignant prayers of the Haggadah speaks of the Jew's obligation to care for his fellow man. The ritual is reminiscent of the ancient custom of the 'tamchui' the special 'Tzedakah' collection box used to provide matzah and wine for even the poorest household of Israel.

Through synagogue ritual, home services and personal observances, the message of Passover is renewed annually.

REFERENCE  
DO NOT CIRCULATE

Community Affairs File

VISS COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA



# Services Note American Jewry Founder's Birth

The United Hebrew Congregation will observe the 156th birthday of Isaac Mayer Wise, recognized as the founder of the American Jewish community in the United States, Friday in appropriate services at Temple Israel.

The great organizer of the American Jewish community epitomizes the story of the Jew in the United States. An emigrant from Bohemia in 1846, he brought with him a deep commitment to a liberal interpretation of Judaism and a natural affinity for the American spirit of free inquiry and expression.

+ + +

American Jewry at that time presented itself to Wise as a Jewishly uneducated, backward, disputatious, self-defeating anarchy — terms that he actually used to describe what greeted him on his arrival in

America. It was his conviction that the two foremost needs of American Jewry were to unite Jewish congregations into an organized confederation, one of whose chief purposes would be to establish and maintain a seminary for the training of American rabbis to serve American congregations in the spirit of Liberal Judaism.

But his union of congregations was to serve other purposes as well. His biographer, Rabbi James G. Heller, wrote: "... (The Union) resolved to establish a publication society, and to work toward better observance of the Jewish Sabbath. It promulgated rules for the conduct and aid of Sabbath schools." Implicit in all, of Wise's work was the dream of building a Judaism to serve the ethical and spiritual needs of a new America.

+ + +

In 1873 he founded the Union of American Hebrew Congregations in Cincinnati. In 1875 he founded the Hebrew Union College. In 1889 he founded the Central Conference of American Rabbis. This pattern of organization was later copied by the Orthodox and Conservative movements. A prolific writer, his German language weekly, "Deborah," and his English weekly, "The American Israelite," recorded the birth pangs of American Judaism.

Wise was a master builder, and American Jews are his inheritors. In Reform congregations throughout North America a special Sabbath service is dedicated to him and to the achievements which live long after him.

Community Affairs File

REFERENCE  
DO NOT CIRCULATE

VIGO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY  
TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA



T. DEC 26 1984

# Few are subs for workers

Most people enjoyed a day off work Tuesday, but those who perform vital services, such as fire and law-enforcement officials and hospital employees, don't have that luxury. For them, work goes on around the clock, each and every day of the year.

But a few volunteers at Terre Haute's Union Hospital were able to spend the day at home, thanks to the generosity of eight men and one woman who are members of the United Hebrew Congregation.

Walter Sommers, chairman of the temple's outreach program, was hesitant to talk about his and the others' roles in working so some employees could enjoy Christmas with their families.

"We're really not looking for publicity," said Sommers, who worked as a "go-fer" in the emergency room Tuesday. "We've been talking about it for several years and just decided to do it."

The "we" he referred to are members of a newly reorganized men's club at the temple. During their recent organizational meeting, the subject of Jews volunteering their time to work for their Christian neighbors on Christmas came up.



Tribune-Star/Jan Chait

## Trading places

David Becker waits on a customer in Union Hospital's gift shop Tuesday afternoon while Alvin Levine, on the right, takes time out from his duties assisting Becker to kibbitz with Nelson Cohen, who stopped by to look

in on his friends. Becker, Levine, and seven other members of the United Hebrew Congregation volunteered their time Tuesday so some "real" volunteers could spend Christmas with their families.

"It's not our holiday, it's a Christian holiday," said David Becker, who worked in the gift shop. "We're glad to give some time so people could be home with their families ... we're not in it for the publicity."

Alvin Levine, who was assisting Becker in the gift shop, said he and the others were "trying to keep a low profile. Too much publicity defeats the purpose."

The volunteers put in some time Friday to learn the ropes a bit before taking over Tuesday. All agreed that things were much busier during orientation than on Christmas day.

"I'm glad we weren't too busy

— for the patients' sake," said Isadore Gurman, who manned the information desk in the lobby for a few hours Tuesday.

"One thing you learn real quick," he said, "is to appreciate what these volunteers do on a regular basis."

Sommers jokingly said that things were so slow in the emergency room, "I feel like a Maytag repairman."

Levine said the gift shop Tuesday was "constantly busy, but manageable."

Mary Jo Jackson, who is a regular fixture behind the information desk, explained that

the number of patients in the hospital drops at Christmas because doctors don't admit anyone unless it's an emergency. In addition, some patients do go home for Christmas, even if it's just for a day.

Sommers said he didn't know if the volunteer-for-Christmas program would be a permanent one.

Whether it is or not, Dora Miles, who worked in the gift shop Tuesday morning, plans to do volunteer work on more than just that one day.

"She became so excited," Sommers said, "that she joined the Service League."



## yesterday

# United Hebrew Congregation plans remodeling of local Temple

Churches (W.V.)

The Spectator

By Frances E. Hughes Sp DEC 4 1976

Work begins this month on remodeling and redecorating the United Hebrew Congregation Temple at 540 South Sixth Street.

The main sanctuary will be decorated, there will be a new heating and air conditioning plant, classrooms will be remodeled and two new adult classrooms added, and completely new kitchen, library and rest rooms installed.

On the north side of the building, there will be a new entrance way with a canopy over it, giving easier access to the temple. A parking lot on the south of the building was added some years ago and recently, the lot on the north of the temple was purchased. Both had buildings on them that were razed.

Terre Haute's United Hebrew Congregation was the first completely integrated synagogue in the United States.

The federation of Temple Israel and Temple B'Nai Abraham to become the United Hebrew Congregation took place in 1935, following executive meetings of the boards of trustees of both temples. The constitution for the congregation was unanimously adopted by the boards Dec. 4, 1935, and ratified by the congregation Dec. 16, 1935.

This integration of the Orthodox, Conservative and Reform Jews of Terre Haute provided all three worship opportunities for Terre Haute Jewry. There are now approximately 650 members of the congregation.

Terre Haute Jewry is almost as old as Terre Haute itself. Mention of Jewish settlers is to be found in the Terre Haute press before 1823. The Orthodox Jews came from Eastern Europe and the Reformed from Western Europe.

In 1849, from eight to 10 families formed a Terre Haute Burial Society for the purchase of lots in the present Woodlawn Cemetery for a Jewish Cemetery.

Terre Haute Zions Gemeinde, the Reformed congregation, first met in March of 1858 at Carr's Hall, Fifth and Ohio streets. Minutes of the meeting were written in German. Chason Schochet Lehrer Behr of Buffalo, N.Y., was hired for \$300 a year to serve the congregation.

In 1868, Gan Eden Lodge No. 110, Independent Order of B'Nai Brith, was organized here and received its charter. For 10 years, the community lived organized in this way, gaining its inspiration for Jewish activity from the ideals of the order and the spirit of its Ladies' Aid Society.

It was in the Fall of 1882 that the religious spirit of the community expressed itself more clearly and a Reformed congregation was organized with the old burial association consolidated with the new organization. David Goldman, a lawyer and justice of the peace, was engaged to conduct services and to teach the Sabbath school. He was the son of Edwin Goodman, a famous band leader.

Previous to this, the services were conducted by August Goodman, the first secretary, at a hall at Fifth and Ohio streets.

Alexander Lyons, then a student at the Hebrew Union College, became the first rabbi of the congregation, which was named Temple Israel, in 1890. The German Reformed Church building at 420 South Fourth Street was purchased by the congregation and the synagogue of Temple Israel was established here.

At the dedication ceremony of the new temple, the new rabbi was installed by Dr. I. M. Wise, founder of American Judaism, the Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati, the Union of American Hebrew Congregation and the Central Conference of American Rabbis. Dr. Wise was the father of Mrs. Adolph S. Ochs, wife of the publisher of the New York Times.

Rabbi Lyons was succeeded as leader of the Reformed congregation by Rabbi Samuel Deinard in 1896, and from 1900 to 1913, Rabbi Emil W. Leipsinger served the congregation.

In 1911, Temple Israel was built at 540 South Sixth Street. The architect for the attractive building was Simeon B. Eisendrath of Chicago and New York. He was noted especially for numerous

buildings he designed for Jewish institutions and as the architect for some of New York's famous restaurants, including Rector's, Palais Royal and the Carlton Terrace.

Successive rabbis during the next 20 years were Rabbi Jacob H. Kaplan, Rabbi Isaac E. Marcuson and Rabbi Joseph L. Fink.

Rabbi J. Marshall Taxay came to the congregation in 1924 and was here until 1943. He was succeeded at the temple by Rabbis Leonard Mervis, A. Stanley Dreyfus, David Raab, Henry Sandman, Bernard Cohen and Robert Benjamin. The present official leader is Rabbi Murray J. Berger.

Temple B'Nai Abraham was organized by 16 local Orthodox families who would not affiliate with a Reform Congregation in 1886 and was named for the memory of Abraham, the father of Morris, Isaac and Max and Isaac P. Levin. At first, this congregation worshiped in a rented hall at Eleventh Street and Wabash Avenue. Later, a building at Twelfth and Mulberry streets was purchased for a synagogue.

This building was sold in 1925 and a new synagogue for that congregation built at Fifth and Poplar streets the next year. During the time the building was being constructed, services were held at the First Congregational Church.

This temple was consecrated Aug. 28, 1927, with the cornerstone laid and the edifice dedicated at that time. Rabbi Ralph Hershon, Rabbi Harry Miller and Cantor Eli Katz served this temple.

This building was still used for several years after the merger of the two congregations in 1935. After that, services were held in the South Sixth Street temple, then called the United Hebrew Congregation Temple. The first meeting of the united temples was Jan. 8, 1936.

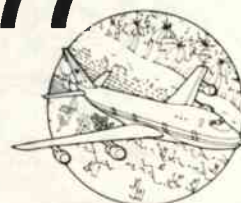
Benjamin Blumberg, a member of the congregation, purchased the former Temple B'Nai Abraham in 1965 and presented it to the Wabash Senior Citizens Center, which has progressed since then to a membership of almost 1200.

The Jewish congregation in Terre Haute has contributed much to the history and progress of the city over the years.

## HAWAII 1977

### 8 DAYS

### WEEKLY DEPARTURES



FROM: INDIANAPOLIS **\$479.00**

TERRE HAUTE **\$517.00**

SHERATON - PRINCESS KAIULANI HOTEL

- AIRPLANE
- HOTEL
- TRANSFERS

- BAGGAGE HANDLING
- LEI GREETING
- TAXES

**NO CHARGE FOR OUR SERVICE!**

WORLD  
WIDE  
TRAVEL  
SERVICE



Conveniently Located in the  
T.H. House on Wabash Ave.  
Phone (812) 232-0345



# Churches (J.H.) History of Jewish Community Has Climax in United Temple

The history of Vigo County records that migratory families of Jewish settlers were established in this region as early as 1823. However, in the days of the westward expansion these pioneers continued to push west, thus preventing the organization of a permanent congregation until the 1860s when a small group rented rooms at Fourth and Walnut streets and conducted services on the Sabbath and on holy days. David Arnold was president of the first Jewish congregation in Terre Haute which was later disbanded because of the small number of the Jewish population. Nevertheless, these citizens continued to worship together, conducting Sabbath School in private homes and services in rooms above stores operated by Jewish merchants.

In the Autumn of 1882 a group of twenty-five men organized the first permanent Hebrew congregation. The charter members of this group were Max Joseph, president; Samuel Frank, vice president; A. Arnold, treasurer; August Goodman, Simon Hirsch, Isaac Fecheimer, Meyer Mannberger, M. Torner, Max Herbst, Lee Seligsberger, A. Herz, Simon Hirselder, Louis Rothschild, Jonas Strouse, Louis Strouse, S. Loeb, Theo Frank, Philipp Schloss, S. Uffenheimer, Herz Strauss, Aaron Strouse, Judy Spiegel, E. Rothschild, L. Goodman and L. S. Strouse. David Goldman, a local attorney, conducted services and instructed the Sabbath School. He was the father of Edwin Frank Goodman, the noted band conductor.

## Site Bought.

The purchase of the site of the first Temple Israel was made in March, 1890. The ground was that located at Fourth and Swan. In the same year, the Terre Haute congregation called Dr. Alexander Lyons to preside over the congregation. Dr. Lyons is now rabbi-emeritus of the Brooklyn, N. Y., Temple Beth Elohim. Rabbi Lyons was installed in the Temple Israel pulpit here by Dr. Isaac Mayer Wise, one of the founders and leaders of Liberal Judaism in America. Later in the congregation's history, Rabbi Lyons was succeeded by Rabbi S. N. Deliard. This was the year 1896.

From 1900 to 1912 Rabbi Emil S. Leipziger filled the pulpit. It was during the rabbinate of Rabbi Leipziger that the lot at 540 South Sixth Street was purchased, where, in 1911, the present Temple Israel was erected.

## Rabbi Taxay Came Here in 1924.

Following Rabbi Leipziger to the pulpit of Temple Israel was Rabbi Jacob Kaplan, who was succeeded by Rabbi S. E. Marcuson and Rabbi Joseph E. Fink.

In 1924 Rabbi J. Marshall Taxay became rabbi of the Temple Israel. Rabbi Taxay now fills the pulpit of the new United Temple, a consolidation of Temples Israel and B'nai Abraham, serving the united Jewish community.

The organization of Temple B'nai Abraham was effected in 1859 by twelve members and was named for the memory of Abraham Levin, father of Meyer, Morris, Isaac and Max Levin. Like the founders of Temple Israel, the members of Temple B'nai Abraham worshipped in rented rooms, first at Twelfth

and Wabash. Hyman Goldberg was the first president of the Temple B'nai Abraham congregation. In the year 1896 a house was purchased at Twelfth and Mulberry streets, where services were conducted and where the Hebrew language and lore was taught to the young Jewish people of the community. Not until 1905 was a lot purchased and a permanent structure erected as a place of worship. Meyer Levin was the president of the synagogue at that time, when he retired as honorary president after almost forty years of outstanding service.

The present site of Temple B'nai Abraham, at Fifth and Poplar streets was purchased in 1922 and the cornerstone of the temple was laid in the Fall of 1925. Rabbi Ralph Hershen was brought to the congregation at that time. He was followed a few months later by Rabbi Harry Miller and Cantor Eli Katz. Following the retirement of Mr. Levin, Ben Becker, Louis Brown and John Tatelman carried on the administrative work of the temple, with Ben Becker as president.

## The United Temple.

The first steps toward the consolidation of the two temples were taken in 1934. Uniting Temple Israel and Temple B'nai Abraham had



RABBI J. MARSHALL TAXAY.

long been the goal toward which Rabbi Taxay had worked. Rabbi Taxay outlined this objective when he first came to Terre Haute and the generous gift of the late Max Blumberg, combined with the co-operative efforts of both congregations, made his vision a reality in 1935 after laboring ten years to bring this about.

Known throughout the nation as a leader in Jewish affairs and a man of outstanding ability, Rabbi Taxay is a civic as well as a religious leader. He is deeply respected by the entire community for his intelligent, sincere and untiring efforts to encourage co-operation and brotherhood among all people, of all races and all faiths.

## Scholarly Leader.

Rabbi Taxay is listed in "Who's Who" in the clergy of the United States as a minister, lecturer and publicist. He was educated at the Universities of Pittsburgh, Chicago and Cincinnati and ordained at the Hebrew Union College. He has been grand chaplain of the Grand Council, Royal and Select Masters, of the state of Indiana, and past president of District No. 2, B'nai Brith, which extends from Cleveland, Ohio, to Albuquerque, N. M. He is the only rabbi outside of the state of Ohio who has ever held the above office in over ninety years' history of B'nai Brith.

He is founder of "Civil Heroes' Day," a day honoring the heroes of daily life; past president of the Terre Haute Clergy Club, Gan Eden Lodge and is vice president of the Family Welfare Society and honorary member of Kiwanis International.

Rabbi Taxay is a member of Humboldt Lodge No. 43, F. & A. M.; Terre Haute Council No. 8, Royal and Select Masters, and Terre Haute Chapter No. 11, Royal Arch Masons. He is likewise a member of the University of Cincinnati and Hebrew Union College alumni and the Terre Haute Chamber of Commerce. He has headed the Health-Welfare campaign of Terre Haute in 1936 and 1937, under which were united the Public Health Nursing Association, the Family Welfare Society and Fresh Air Mission.

Rabbi Taxay has traveled extensively the past few years in England, France, Belgium, Poland, Germany, Finland, Mexico, Italy, Egypt, Palestine, the Soviet Union and Spain. He has conducted the book review column of "The Writers' Digest" and has contributed to "The American Israelite," "Indiana Jewish Chronicle" and "The Reflex Magazine."

## DISTILLERY IS BIG INDUSTRY

### Merchants Distilling Corp. Has Achieved National Distribution of Packaged Goods.

The Merchants Distilling Corporation during the past year achieved national distribution with representation in every state in the Union, designated as "monopoly" states. The sales and production during past months have leaped forward with amazing success.

To indicate the success of Merchants brands it is mentioned that one of the brands is the fastest selling and greatest in demand in the city of Memphis, Tenn., according to a recent survey made by newspapers in that city.

Merchants sales in Wisconsin during the year are seventh in competition with all brands among a group of twenty-five leading distilleries.

Last November Merchants brands were in fourth place in the state of Georgia; thus throughout the nation Merchants has been going forward into 1940, which year will solidify gains and see the corporation advance to new positions.

## President Sees Future.

"On concluding our two-day sales conference," W. C. Dunn, president of Merchants, stated, "my confi-

dence in Merchants' future is stronger than ever, after hearing reports from our representatives of conditions in their respective territories and their enthusiasm.

"We are rapidly assuming a position in the field to which the quality of our merchandise and our plant capacity entitles us.

"During the past year plant facilities have been enlarged and added to including the establishment of additional bottling lines and construction of a new bottled-in-bond bottling plant.

"The new bottled-in-bond plant came as a result of the great demand locally and throughout the Middle West for Merchants' famous \$1-a-bottle whiskies, Hunt Club, Old Sycamore and others.

"These bonded whiskies are among the leaders throughout Indiana in their price class and their popularity reflects favorably in no small degree on the quality product which Merchants puts into each bottle."

Merchants' contribution to Terre Haute's economic life is outstanding among the city's industries. In its growth during the past months its employment rolls have increased some 500 per cent. More than 300 young women started working on bottling lines and with business continuing at a rapid pace these employees are still on the pay rolls despite the fact that the peak of the season has long since passed.

What this means to Terre Haute merchants, business and professional men can be readily surmised. Grocers, druggists, clothiers, shoe men and professional men all benefit from an industrial pay roll of many hundreds of thousands of dollars over a period of time.

REFERENCE  
DO NOT CIRCULATE



# THE TEMPLE OF ISRAEL.

A Notable Event Was Its Dedication in Terre Haute Church History.

## FIRST REGULAR PLACE OF WORSHIP.

A Large Audience Present—Rabbi Wise's Address—"How We Built the Temple."

The dedication of Temple Israel occurred last evening and was a notable event in the annal of church history in Terre Haute. The temple is a handsome building, facing the west on south Fourth street, between Swan and Oak. The interior decorations are done in excellent taste, the walls of pale blue being in pleasing contrast with the higher colors of freize and ceiling. Above the entrance is the gallery for the organ and the choir. The choir is composed of Misses Emma Frank, Emma H. Frank, Emma Arnold, Hattie Mack, Mr. Theo. Frank, Mr. Harry Raphael, Mrs. Judy Thorman organist, and rendered exquisite music, the solo of Miss Hattie Mack, accompanied by Mr. Ewald Reiman, being particularly fine.

This is the first time the Jewish people of Terre Haute have had a regular place of worship and it was not strange, that the dedicatory exercises were to many of the congregation as unfamiliar as they would have been to those not professing the Jewish faith. Throughout, the exercises were marked with an air of earnestness, of unostentatiousness and a tone of simplicity that held the large congregation in wrapt attention. The dedication of the scrolls and of the everlasting light was begun by Miss Rosa Hirschler, whose rather long declamation was recited with the clearest enunciation, then shorter recitations by Miss Elsie Loeb and Miss May Joseph, both little misses, were given with much impressiveness. After chanting the responses to the prayers impressively read by Rabbi Lyons, the newly chosen pastor made a short address in which, drawing a striking picture of man's three-fold life—the physical, the mental and the spiritual. He symbolized the temple as the school house of the soul. In his brief but fervent address he paid a beautiful tribute to his revered preceptor, the Rev. Dr. Wise, whom he then introduced.

Rabbi Wise is a man well advanced in years and with his rather stooped figure, well rounded head set down on the shoulders, and sparse white beard, he impressed his hearers as he came to the pulpit with rather faltering step, as being too feeble for prolonged speech after his journey from Cincinnati. But in a moment the eyes are lighted up, the glow comes to the cheeks and as the reverend doctor broadened on the theme outlined by Rabbi Lyons there was a vigor of speech that would have betokened a much younger man. While there was no attempt at flights of oratory the address commanded the closest attention and the rabbi was particularly impressive in the sonorous Hebrew passages that were used in illustrating his theme. In its direct appeal to the congregation, the plain,

direct language in which it was clothed, the address was in the nature of a homily. In the three parts on lives that should be led, the past with its memories of what the fathers had done, the present and the future, to which the children of the congregation should be devoted, Rabbi Wise used the happy illustration from the Talmud where the old man is reproved by a passing stranger for planting a tree that would not bear fruit for a hundred years. The old man rebuked the scoffer by telling how, that in every bit of fruit he ate, he returned thanks to his fathers who a hundred years before had planted trees that he might eat. In this conversational vein Doctor Wise held his congregation, none realizing that time had gone by so fast.

After a closing prayer and hymn the congregation, with their invited guests, went to the Phoenix club rooms, where ices and light refreshments were served. After all were seated in the large banquet hall Rabbi Lyons said that it was proper to say something of those who had been indefatigable in building the temple and before the listeners were aware, Mr. Max Joseph was having fastened on his watch chain a beautiful etruscan gold watch charm, with horse shoe of diamonds. It was a complete surprise to everybody but the very few, and Mr. Joseph was so taken unaware that he could do no more than return heartfelt thanks for the material expression of the hearty good will in which the Temple Israel held his earnest work in its upbuilding. Then before the tables were deserted Mr. Herz proposed that the young ladies of the congregation should be heard from. To this Miss Tres. H. Strouse responded in a happy vein, reminding Mr. Herz that having been caught unawares she unlike Artemus Ward, "had the gift of oratory and had the oratory with her." The struggle of the youthful congregation, the work and hardships of raising church funds are fully set forth by Miss Strouse:

HOW WE BUILT THE TEMPLE.  
Oh how very hard we've worked  
This little temple of ours to build,  
Not one of us a task has shirked  
That our treasury might be filled.  
We've had all kinds of meetings  
To see what could be done.  
'Twas always the same greeting,  
"Where will we get the money?"  
Then we set ourselves to thinking—  
The result—a great big fair,  
I wonder we didn't take to drinking  
But we ladies didn't dare.  
We made all sorts of fancy things,  
Such as pickles, pies and cake,  
We raffled off a wedding ring  
The chances no bachelor would take.  
We begged, we borrowed, we made merchants sick,  
We fussed, we quarreled but together we did stick,  
We had minstrels, we had tableaux,  
We had dramas of all kinds,  
But we eclipsed the climax when  
We, the people, dined  
On Barnum's day.

The tables were all so white and clean,  
The windows were filled with pies and cream,  
And the girls with anxious beating hearts  
Wondered if the people would buy their tart.  
Slowly the procession went down the aisle  
And the crowd fled in to eat.  
Oh, how we worked and smiled so funny

To hear that sound—the jingle of money.  
And now our temple is finished at last  
And we can look proudly back on the past.  
Oh, may our future happy and bright be  
Is the wish of yours—tru-lee.

After some time spent in social converse the social features of the dedicatory exercises ended. The Rev. Dr. Wise will not return to Cincinnati until to-morrow.

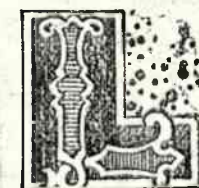
Y DECEMBER 5, 1891.

## CENTENARY CHURCH.

Opening Exercises Last Night of the Anniversary Celebration.

A Sketch of the Church From its Founding to the Present Time.

A List of Former Pastors—Other Facts.



LAST night Centenary M. E. church was crowded at the opening exercises of the celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the establishment of the church in this city.

A beautiful program of music published in last evening's paper was rendered by the following persons: Mr. and Mrs. Dan Davis, Mrs. John Hager, Gabe Davis, and Oscar Schrader.

Rev. Coultas in a short address welcomed the visiting clergy and all Methodists present and congratulated the members of Centenary on the auspicious opening of their anniversary.

A reception was held in the church parlors which was a complete success. A number of former parlors were present. The official board of the church acted as committee on reception and the ladies of the church provided delicious refreshments.

The following is a program of exercises for the rest of the meeting.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5TH.

2:30 p. m.—Old Saints meeting. Members of the Methodist church over fifty years of age will participate. To be opened with an address by Col. R. W. Thompson. T. C. Buntin, Chairman.

7:30 p. m.—Historical meeting. Papers—(a) Early Methodism in Terre Haute, —Rev. Wm. Graham, D. D. (b)—Twenty-five Years of Methodism in Centenary M. E. Church—Richard S. Tennant, Esq.

### MUSIC.

Organ Voluntary.....Mr. Schrader  
Solo and Quartette—Praise Ye the Lord  
Duet—O Morning Land.....Holden  
Mrs. J. E. Hager and Mr. Dan Davis

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6TH.

9:30 a. m.—General Love Feast.  
10:30 a. m.—Quarter-Centennial Sermon—Rev. J. W. Greene, D. D.  
2:30 p. m.—Children's Meeting.  
7:30 p. m.—Addresses and Letters from former pastors.

### MUSIC.

SUNDAY MORNING.

Organ.....Mr. Schrader  
To Deum in B flat.....Baumbach  
Solo—Watchman, What of the Night  
.....Farland  
Dan Davis;  
Trio—Sweet is the Work.....Wiegand  
Mr. and Mrs. Dan Davis and Mr. Gabe Davis.

SUNDAY EVENING.

Organ.....Mr. Schrader  
Cantata Domino in C.....Buck  
Solo—Take My Soul O Lord.....Buncie  
Mrs. Dan Davis.  
Benedictus Qui Vivit.....Klein  
Jesus Saviour Pilot Me.....Gould  
Organ.....Mr. Schrader

### HISTORY OF THE CHURCH.

In view of the quarter-centennial anniversary celebration it is not inappropriate at the present time to publish a

Centenary is one of Terre Haute's most prominent churches, although probably the youngest. From its very organization it took prominent rank, and has retained its position throughout the twenty-five years of its existence.

Its organization was effected in 1866 through the instrumentality of Rev. Dr. Wm. Graham, at that time pastor of Asbury church. The city was then of considerable size, and one Methodist church was not sufficient to hold the large number of adherents to that faith in Terre Haute. The primary idea was that all Methodists north of Main street were to separate themselves from Asbury and unite with the new church; those south of Main were to retain their membership in the old church. This plan was carried out and the division made with a few exceptions.

Work was commenced on the church edifice soon after the organization of the church. Dr. Graham's pastorate ended in September, 1866, and he was succeeded by Rev. L. C. Buckles, properly the first minister of Centenary church. He is at present a minister of the gospel at Lafayette, Ind. He was exchanged in the fall of 1867 for Rev. B. Wilson Smith, who remained two years. Rev. Smith is now pastor of a congregation at Lafayette. Rev. Joseph Foxworthy was the next pastor of Centenary church, he coming here in 1869. His pastorate embraced only one year. Rev. Foxworthy is now pastor of a church at Pana, Ill.

Rev. J. W. Greene, D. D., who has been so greatly identified with Terre Haute Methodism, became the minister at Centenary in September, 1870, and remained a full term of three years. He has served as pastor of both Asbury and Centenary, and also as presiding elder of this district. Rev. Greene is at the present time residing at Crawfordsville.

Rev. N. L. Brakeman succeeded Rev. Greene in September 1873 and remained two years. His labors were productive of great good in the church. He died at Valparaiso in 1881 and is the only former pastor of the Centenary deceased.

The sixth minister was Wm. McK. Darwood, who afterwards served an appointment at Asbury. Rev. Darwood was a veritable preacher and left a lasting impression upon the minds of the people. Rev. Darwood came here in 1875 and his pastorate ended in 1878. He is at present pastor of a flourishing church in New York City.

Rev. J. M. Beard's ministry extended over two years, from September 1878 to September 1880. Earnest, quick and thoughtful, he is remembered with the best of feelings by his congregation. He is now president of the college at Napa, California.

Rev. W. R. Mikels succeeded Rev. Beard in 1880 and remained in charge until 1882. During the summer of his first year, the church was partially destroyed by fire but was immediately rebuilt. Rev. Mikels is now serving a pastorate at South Bend.

Rev. Alfred Kummer assumed charge of the flock in 1882 and served three years. During Rev. Kummer's ministry the church prospered. Rev. Kummer is now pastor of Grace church at Portland, Ore.

Rev. Salem B. Towne succeeded Rev. Kummer in 1885 and remained until 1890. His five years' labor here were productive of much good to the church. Rev. Towne is now a minister at Greencastle.

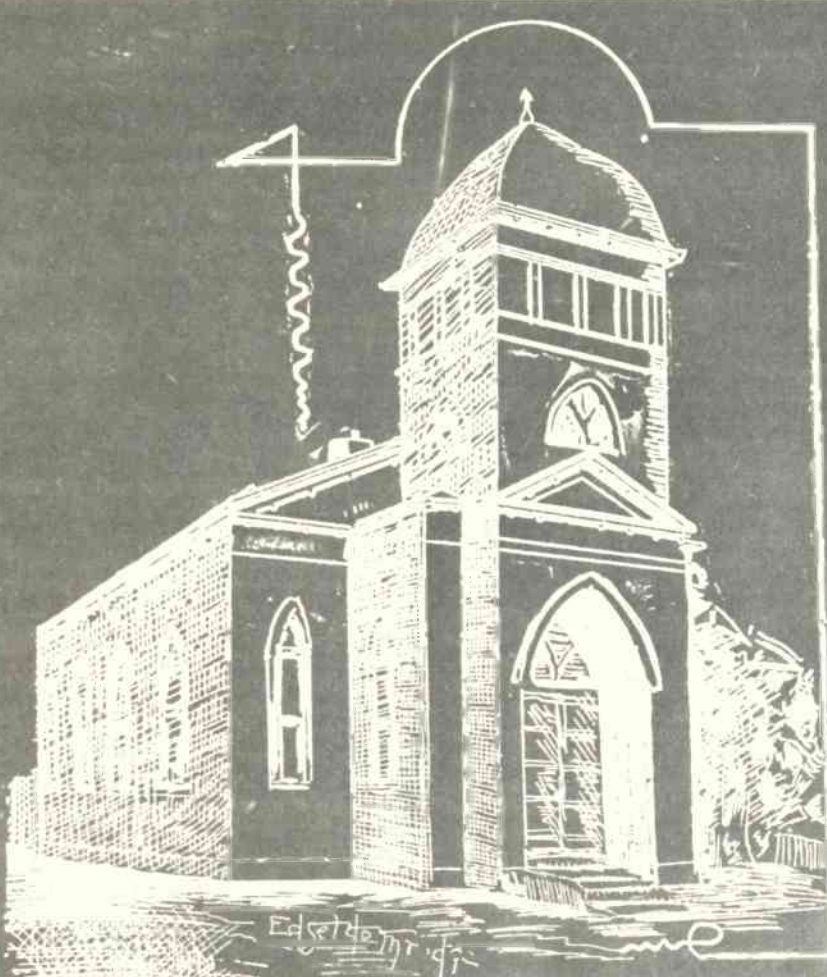
Rev. T. I. Coultas, D. D., is the present minister, and during his one year's residence here has won for himself a high place in the estimation of our citizens. Much good work has been accomplished under his direction.

### THE CHURCH TODAY.

The church building has grown, by successive additions, to be the largest in the city. During the year 1890 the congregation built a very handsome chapel in the northwest part of the city for the accommodation of the choir.



## AMERICAN ISRAELITE.



THE FIRST TEMPLE IN TERRE HAUTE, IND.

The first temple in the beautiful city of Terre Haute, Ind., was dedicated last Friday, September 25th. The building was a German Reformed church, the Congregation Israel purchased it and renovated and decorated it in elegant style, put a new organ, pulpit and ark into it, also new chair-seats and the usual covers of altar and ark, so that the house now presents a rich and pleasant aspect to the visitor.

The dedication was conducted by the lately elected Rabbi, Alexander Lyons, supported by a choir of volunteers from the congregation, four young ladies, two gentlemen and a skilled organist. Rabbi Wise delivered the oration. The audience was very large, far beyond the seating and standing capacity of the house, consisting largely of Christians from the best society of the town. The service lasted about two hours and was quite solemn and edifying, as was also the divine service of Sabbath morning.

This Congregation Israel is, in fact, but four years old, and consists of families, a few of which reside outside of the city, like Mr. Hamburger, of Paris, Ill. Most of the Israelites living in adjoining towns did not join the congregation. The burden of the expense was borne by the people of Terre Haute, so that these men taxed themselves very heavily, and the ladies, both mothers and daughters, did their very best to accomplish the task of having a congregation, a rabbi and a house of worship of their own.

There have been Israelites living in

Terre Haute ever since 1850. They made several attempts to have an organized congregation; they purchased a piece of ground and established a burial ground at an early date, but were never numerous enough to sustain an organization, till, as said, they finally succeeded about four years ago to accomplish it, and electing two years ago Mr. Max Joseph as their president, he pressed the matter to an issue and succeeded in building up the Terre Haute Congregation "Israel" with all the institutions of a well organized member in American Judaism. It must be noticed that these few families of our co-religionists sacrificed in proportion more of time and treasure in the sacred cause than those of the large cities, who spent hundreds of thousands for temples and salaries, and show an enthusiasm by far superior to that of our merchant princes.

It is now a matter of history that thirty-seven men with their wives and daughters have established the seventh temple congregation in the State of Indiana; the others are in Indianapolis, Fort Wayne, Wabash, Evansville, Lafayette and Ligonier, with unfinished attempts to the same purpose at Vincennes, Madison, Peru, LaPorte and Logansport.

The ISRAELITE sends congratulations and kindly greetings to our co-religionists of Terre Haute, Ind., their rabbi, president and officers, also to the Terre Haute *Evening Gazette* and the liberal citizens of the beautiful city.

a great loss to all, to every cause in which they were engaged. We have gained five rabbis, graduates from the Hebrew Union College.

In Europe we have lost eminent literati, men important as mighty co-laborers in the architecture of the science of Judaism, viz: Dr. Nehemiah Bruel, Dr. H. Graetz,\* Leopold Dukas, Raphael Kirchheim and the philosophical Rabbi, Dr. Joel, of Breslau. Praised be He and blessed be his memory.

Thus have we arrived at the gate of the year 5652 A. M. with the help of God, under combats and mortification, but never discomfitted, never routed, without deserting the old standard, without losing faith and hope. The tears of the past year can not be wiped from the countenance of humanity with this one sheet of paper. Still through eyes with tears bedimmed we can see the sun of Israel's salvation approaching the horizon, the night is spent, the portal of morning opens, the

come, and bring about what must occur, sooner or later; and the Germans at home, as well as their kindred in Kili-ma-Njaro, will certainly gnash their teeth—but then it will be too late.

## RUSSIAN REFUGEES OF '82.

[From the St. Paul, Minn. *Volkszeitung*—German.]

It is proper at this time, when so many of the Russian Jews come to this country, and when the question is proposed what to do with them, to refer probably to the fact that about nine years ago, a large number of Russian refugees came to St. Paul. At that time these unfortunate victims of the tyrannical Czar of Russia were placed into tents at the Flats of the West Side and the visitors frequently expressed their condemnation of this inhuman treatment of these people by the Russian government, in utter contrast to the flattery, of which, lately, the English press has been guilty when speaking of Russia. The question, what to do with these oppressed people, was solved by Rabbi J. Wechsler, who then officiated at St. Paul. He was aware of the fact and comprehended it fully, that it was

INA

Del

\* על

ואשר  
יהיה"A  
saying

"L

its of

congr

them

them

bring

the L

sheph

In

quest

sum

geniu

He

the co

rael o

derne

promi

himse

to the

life w

monot

The

throa

sand

Life b

cries

guida

long

only

ever

the cr

elabor

in fact

people

of this

the he

flood-g

scend,

and tra

into

stream

Relig

stand

as the

Life

ness

the hill

land.

Life

wherei

things

appear

This

order

morphe

the pow

But

ligion

with G

depend

ner in

interest

tent

of the

of the

the in

wants

That

presid

Ceasing

palpable

duties

But

great

minister

is right

not child

ally do

right, a

tion, so

men wi

power

to act.

the pulp

tue of ol

Not usua

cidedly

no mean

If not

by what

mind us

So you

tice app

the duty

only



Churches (WV)  
Jewish

## BOTH TEMPLES HAVE SERVICES

Jewish Life in Terre Haute  
Traced Back at Least  
110 Years.

The Jewish life of Terre Haute is almost as old as the city itself and mention of Jewish settlers and activities has been found in old Terre Haute newspapers dating back as far as 1823. Old-timers have traced Jewish life in this city back at least 110 years.

According to Jewish practice it requires a minimum of ten persons to establish a congregation. It is therefore reasonably certain that a Jewish congregation existed in Terre Haute early in the nineteenth century. The minutes recording the activities of Temple Israel date back to 1854.

One of the early buildings, Temple Israel was at Fourth and Swan. The congregation leader and teacher was a Mr. Arnold, who served the community for several years. The first rabbi, graduate of an American university and seminary, was the Rev. Dr. Alexander Lyons, who officiated locally until called to the leading pulpit of Brooklyn, N. Y., where he now is minister-emeritus. Dr. Lyons was installed in the Temple Israel pulpit by the Rev. Dr. Isaac Mayer Wise, founder

of American Judaism, the Hebrew Union college, Cincinnati, the Union of American Hebrew Congregations and the Central Conference of American Rabbis. Dr. Wise was the father-in-law of Adolph S. Ochs, publisher of the New York Times.

Dr. Lyons was succeeded by the Rev. Dr. Samuel Delnord, who was called to the pulpit of Minneapolis in 1900.

Rabbi Emil W. Leipziger officiated until 1913, when he accepted the pulpit of New Orleans, to which community he still is ministering. Rabbi Leipziger was followed by the Rev. Dr. Jacob H. Kaplan, presently of Miami, Fla., who in turn was succeeded by Rabbi I. E. Marcuson, and the Rev. Dr. Joseph E. Fink, now of Buffalo, N. Y. The incumbent, Rabbi J. Marshall Taxay, has been minister of Temple Israel since 1924 and of United Temple since the consolidation in 1935.

### Named After Levins.

Temple B'nai Abraham was named after the father of Messrs. Meyer, Morris, Isaac and Max Levin. It was established in 1889 with a membership of 12 in a rented room at Twelfth and Wabash. The president of the congregation was Aaron Goldberg, later of Linton, with Meyer Levin as vice president. The social meetings took place in the hall on the second floor of the building at Eleventh and Wabash. Isaac F. Leventhall succeeded Mr. Goldberg in office. A site was purchased at Twelfth and Mulberry, upon which the synagogue was erected in 1895 under the presidency of Myer Levin, who headed the congregation for 40 years. Upon his retirement in 1931 he was

elected honorary president for life. Meyer Levin was succeeded by Ben Becker. Louis Brown served as president of the congregation for one term.

The sanctuary at Twelfth and Mulberry was sold in 1925 and a lot purchased at Fifth and Poplar. The present synagogue was erected in 1926. The cornerstone was laid and the edifice dedicated by Rabbi J. Marshall Taxay under the administration of Meyer Levin, with John Tatelman as vice president. The week-end school was founded over a decade and a half ago and is still headed by Morris Levin. Mrs. John Tatelman is secretary and David Hoffman treasurer. Louis Brown presided over the organization for a number of years. In 1934, aided by a generous gift and endowment by the late Max Blumberg, steps were taken toward the consolidation of Temples Israel and B'nai Abraham under the leadership of his son, Benjamin Blumberg, then president of Temple Israel.

REFERENCE  
DO NOT CIRCULATE

VIGO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY  
TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA



BOTH TEMPLES -





BOTH TEMPLES -



REFERENCE  
DO NOT CIRCULATE

VIGO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY  
TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA



# UNITED TEMPLE AN IMPORTANT FACTOR

Rabbi J. Marshall Taxay Has Been  
Minister of Both Congre-  
gations Since 1935.

*T.H. Taxay 1-31-38*  
The history of Terre Haute and the history of Jewish life in Terre Haute is nearly one. Mention of Jewish settlers and activities has been found in old newspaper records dating back as far as 1823, and old-timers have traced Jewish life back about 111 years.

According to Jewish practice a minimum of ten persons is required for the establishment of a congregation. Therefore, it is reasonably certain that a Jewish congregation existed in Terre Haute early in the nineteenth century. The minutes recording the activities of Temple Israel date back to 1854. One of the earliest buildings, Temple Israel, was at Fourth and Swan streets. The congregation leader and teacher was a Mr. Arnold, who served the community for several years.

The first rabbi, a graduate of an American university and seminary, was the Rev. Dr. Alexander Lyons. Rabbi Lyons officiated locally until called to the leading pulpit of Brooklyn, N. Y., where he is now minister emeritus. The Rev. Dr. Isaac Mayer Wise, founder of American Judaism, the Hebrew Union College, Cincinnati; the Union of American Hebrew Congregations and the Central Conference of American Rabbis, installed Rabbi Lyons in the temple pulpit. Dr. Wise was the father-in-law of Adolph S. Ochs, publisher of the New York Times.

Dr. Lyons was succeeded by the Rev. Dr. Samuel Deinard, who officiated until 1900, when he was called to the pulpit of Minneapolis.

From 1900 to 1913 Rabbi Emil W. Leipziger filled the pulpit. He was called to New Orleans and he is still ministering to that community. Rabbi Leipziger was followed by the Rev. Dr. Jacob H. Kaplan, now of Miami, Fla., and Rabbi I. E. Marcusom followed Dr. Kaplan. Then followed the ministering of Rev. Dr. Joseph E. Fink, who now is in Buffalo, N. Y.

Rabbi J. Marshall Taxay followed Dr. Fink and he officiated at the temple from 1924, continuing as rabbi of the United Temple when the Temple Israel and Temple B'nai Abraham were consolidated in 1935.

The Temple B'nai Abraham was named after the father of Messrs. Meyer, Morris, Isaac and Max Levin. The temple was established in 1889 by a membership of twelve, who rented a room at Twelfth and Wabash. Aaron Goldberg served as president of the congregation and Meyer Levin, vice president. Social meetings were held on the second floor of a building at Eleventh and

Wabash. Mr. Goldberg's service as president of the congregation were followed by those of Isaac F. Leventhall. A site at Twelfth and Mulberry was purchased and there the synagog was erected in 1895 under the presidency of Meyer Levin, who headed the congregation for forty years. When Mr. Levin retired in 1931 he was elected honorary president for life. Ben Becker succeeded Mr. Levin and served one term and was followed in office by Louis Brown.

In 1925 the sanctuary at Twelfth and Mulberry was sold and a lot at Fifth and Poplar was purchased, where the present synagog was erected in 1926. The cornerstone was laid and the edifice dedicated by Rabbi Taxay under the administration of Meyer Levin and Vice President John Tatelman.

The week-end school was founded over a decade and a half ago and it is still headed by Morris Levin. Mrs. John Tatelman is secretary of the school and David Hoffman is treasurer. Louis Brown headed the organization for a number of years.

## Two Temples United.

In 1934 the first steps were taken toward the consolidation of the two temples. Uniting the Temple Israel and the Temple B'nai Abraham had long been the dream of Rabbi Taxay. It was mainly through his efforts that the enterprise was born and executed. Aided by a generous gift and endowment by the late Max Blumberg, Rabbi Taxay saw his dream come true in 1935. Under the leadership of Benjamin Blumberg, then president of Temple Israel's congregation, the Temple B'nai

Abraham and the Temple Israel were brought under one head. The untiring efforts of Rabbi Taxay were rewarded by the consolidation of two of the oldest Jewish congregations in the state.

An account of Jewish church activities in Terre Haute cannot properly fill its purpose unless mention is made of Rabbi Taxay. Since he became minister of Temple Israel in 1924, Rabbi Taxay has endeared himself by his intelligent kindness to Jews and Gentiles in Terre Haute. Known throughout the nation as a leader in Jewish affairs and as a great mind, Rabbi Taxay has honored the city. Probably no other Jewish community enjoys the whole-hearted co-operation that Rabbi Taxay's congregation manifests. Certainly nowhere is a minister of any creed more respected and beloved than is Rabbi Taxay in Terre Haute.

46

Vigo County Public Library  
REFERENCE  
DO NOT CIRCULATE  
Community Affairs File



#### **RABBI LEONARD MERVIS**

Rabbi Leonard J. Mervis has tendered his resignation to the United Hebrew Congregation, effective Sept. 1.

He has accepted the charge of rabbi of the Washington Boulevard Temple in Chicago.

The leader of the United Hebrew Congregation came here in January, 1945, and was formally installed as rabbi on March 2, 1945. Prior to accepting the Terre Haute post, he was rabbi of Temple Beth-El in Pensacola, Fla., from 1939 until 1944.

A native of Weirton, W. Va., he did his undergraduate work at the University of Michigan and the University of Cincinnati. He holds both the A. B. and A. M. degrees from Cincinnati and the rabbinical degree from the Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati.

He now is completing his work for the Ph. D. degree at the University of Pittsburgh. It will be conferred in August.

While attending the University of Cincinnati, he met his wife, Bernice, a native of that city. Both are members of Phi Beta Kappa.

They have two children, Charles, who is 9 years old, and Richard, who is 6. The family residence is 1610 South Fifth Street.



Special Collections



# Observe Fifth Anniversary of Jewish Temple Consolidation

Churches (TWH)  
Jewish

**TERRE HAUTE'S** Jewish Community has just celebrated the fifth anniversary of the consolidation of the congregations of Temple B'nai Abraham and Temple Israel, the outgrowth of which is United Temple.

Dr. J. Marshall Taxay, now serving his seventeenth year as pastor, saw in the uniting of the two temples the accomplishment of a goal he had as his objective since his installation in the local pastorate in 1924. A generous gift of the late Max Blumberg and the combined efforts of both congregations made his vision a reality.



**DR. J. MARSHALL TAXAY.**  
Rabbi, United Temple.

Officers to govern United Temple were elected recently. They are: Ben Blumberg, president; Lewis R. Sutin, vice president; David Rosenfeld, secretary, and Philip S. Kleeman, treasurer. The board of trustees is made up of the following: Harry N. Levin, Mrs. Carl Wolf, Abe Rosenfeld, Maier M. Levin, Ike Ades, Frank Wolfe, Carl Wolf, Alfred Strouse, Louis Brown and by virtue of their offices in the temple sisterhood and auxiliary Mrs. Adolph Joseph and Mrs. Elias Berkowitz are members of the board.

## Educational Program.

A plan outlined by Dr. Taxay includes the establishment of an active adult education program and the promotion of cultural activities is set forth as the chief aim of 1941.

One sees by the 1941 calendar that the Jewish population of the city is possessed with deep religious fervor. Worship is to be held every Friday night at 7:45 o'clock at Temple Israel and at B'nai Abraham each Saturday morning at 10:30 o'clock. An additional brief service is being held at B'nai Abra-

ham daily at an early hour.

In the pursuit of religious instruction a temple school is conducted on Sunday mornings in Temple Israel hall. Teachers in the school for the first quarter ending Jan. 1 were: Classes 1 and 2, Mrs. M. M. Levin; classes 3 and 4, Mrs. Ben Roth; class 5, Mrs. Howard Irvin; class 6, Miss Adeline Fishman; class 7, Ethel Silver; class 8, Jane Lee Goodman, and classes 9 and 10, Eli Katz. Dr. Taxay is superintendent of the school and Miss Suzan Wolf is secretary.

The Sisterhood and Auxillary are two of the main functioning bodies of the Temple. One of the obligations of the Sisterhood is the financing of salaries of teachers of the school, while the Auxillary is concerned with the maintainance of the Hebrew classes. Both organizations provide entertainment and gifts to the children in the various festivals held during the year. The officers of the Sisterhood are Mrs. Adolph Joseph, president; Mrs. Hubert Goodman and Mrs. Mitchell Thomas, vice presidents; Mrs. Lewis R. Sutin, secretary, and Mrs. N. D. Cohen, treasurer. The Auxillary is headed by Mrs. Elias Berkowitz, president; Mrs. John Tatelman vice president; Mrs. Nathan Goodman, secretary, and Mrs. Samuel Rappaport, treasurer.

## Weekly Study Circle.

A weekly study circle is conducted every Tuesday afternoon at 2 o'clock in the Temple rooms. Mrs. Mitchell Thomas is chairman and Dr. Taxay is teacher. The subject, "Modern Use of the Bible," is being discussed as part of the weekly program. Classes in Hebrew reading are held four hours a week. A very successful presentation of "Feast of Lights" was staged under the direction of Mrs. N. D. Cohen with the pupils of the school as the cast.

Since Dr. Taxay's stay in Terre Haute he has been identified with civic affairs and fraternal organizations. He is the author of a book entitled "Our Story," which presents the Jewish history in the United States, dating back to the discovery of America, up to and including the Civil War. He was awarded the degree of Doctor of Literature by Webster University for his literary and Masonic activities. Dr. Taxay is a former grand chaplain of Royal Arch Masonic Council of the state of Indiana and is listed in the 1940 issue of Religious Leaders of America. He is also past president of District No. 2, B'nai Brith, which territory extends from Cleveland, Ohio, to Albuquerque, N. M.

Besides being a minister, scholar and lecturer he is a traveler, having journeyed in England, France, Belgium, Poland, Germany, Finland, Mexico, Italy, Egypt, Palestine, the Soviet Union and Spain during the past few years.



---

# ANNIVERSARY PROGRAM

1849  
5609

REFERENCE  
DO NOT CIRCULATE

1999  
5759



**VIGO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY**  
ONE LIBRARY SQUARE  
TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA 47807

**April 30, 1999**  
**May 1, 1999**

---



### Dedication

This program is dedicated to the Jewish people of Terre Haute, Indiana,  
Past, Present and Future,  
who have made and will continue to make such a significant positive impact  
on the lives of all citizens of the community

וְאַהֲבַת אֵת ה' אֱלֹהֶיךָ בְּכָל-לִבְּךָ וּבְכָל-נַפְשְׁךָ וּבְכָל-מְאֹדְךָ:  
הָיוּ תְּדַבְּרִים הָאֵלֶּה אֲשֶׁר אֲנִי מְצַוְךָ הַיּוֹם עַל-לִבְּךָ:  
וְשִׁנַּנְתָּם לְבָנֶיךָ

YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR MIND,  
WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH, WITH ALL YOUR BEING.  
SET THESE WORDS,  
WHICH I COMMAND YOU THIS DAY,  
UPON YOUR HEART.  
TEACH THEM FAITHFULLY TO YOUR CHILDREN...

In celebration of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary there is an exhibit of Jewish artifacts at the public library  
at 7th and Poplar Streets. Please visit this beautiful and meaningful display of our past.

We thank  
ROGERS JEWELERS, BENTON AND SUZANNE STEIN  
and  
JEBBS INC., JERRY AND JO EINSTANDIG  
for their generosity in sponsoring this program booklet



1849  
5609

**150th Anniversary of the Jewish Community  
Terre Haute, Indiana**

1999  
5759

**Officers**

Andrew Farber, M.D.	President
Irving Haber, D.O.	President Elect
Jo Einsteadig	Vice-President
Edward Wormser	Secretary
Herschel Chait, Ph.D.	Treasurer
Karl Zucker, Ph.D.	Past President

**Board of Trustees**

Bruce Black, Ph.D.	John Pliskin
Betsy Frank, Ph.D.	Gloria Sher
John Kite, J.D.	Saul Stevens
Morris Landsbaum, HLD	

Patty Lewis	President of Sisterhood
Paul Tuchman	Rabbi

**150th Anniversary Celebration Steering Committee**

Chairperson and Historian  
Herman Koren, HSD

Jo Einsteadig	Lana Haber
Max Einsteadig	Morris Landsbaum
Andrew Farber	Gloria Sher
Jeannie Farber	Ed Wormser
Rabbi Paul Tuchman	Treasurer Karl Zucker



**1849**  
**5609**

**150th Anniversary of the Jewish Community**  
**Terre Haute, Indiana**

**1999**  
**5759**

**SERVICES-SANCTUARY**  
United Hebrew Congregation

**Erev Shabbat Service**

Friday evening, April 30, 1999 / Iyar 15, 5759-8:00 p.m.

**Gates of Prayer**

Service #1

Candle Blessing: Patty Lewis	
(Worship service transliterations begin on page 766)	page 117
Special Recognition in Memorium-David Levin	
Rededication of stained glass windows from B'nai Abraham-Rabbi Miles	
Speaker: Rabbi Eric H. Yoffie, <i>Past, Present and Future of Judaism</i>	
Kiddush	*719/777
Aleynu	615
Yahrzeitn: May 1-7, Iyar 15-21	
Kaddish #1	622
Concluding Song: <i>Ein Keiloheinu</i> (transliteration)	730

Rabbi Paul Tuchman and Rabbi Stanley R. Miles  
Soloist: Laurel Fischbaum Organist: Rosemary Shavloske  
Oneg Shabbat-Vestry Room-Sponsored by Sisterhood

**Shabbat Service**

Saturday morning, May 1, 1999 / Iyar 15, 5759-10:00 a.m.

**Gates of Prayer**

Service #1

Page 283

(Worship service transliterations begin on page 766)	
Torah Service	417
Torah Portion: Emor	Leviticus 23:1-8
Sermon-Rabbi Stanley Miles	Torah page 224
Haftarah: Psalm 118:19-29	
Kiddush	719/777
Aleynu	615
Yahrzeitn: May 1-7, Iyar 15-21	
Kaddish #7	625
Concluding Song: <i>Oseh Shalom</i>	629

Kiddush Luncheon-Vestry Room-Sponsored by Sisterhood



**1848**  
**5609**

**150th Anniversary of the Jewish Community  
Terre Haute, Indiana**

**1999**  
**5759**

**PROGRAM-TERRE HAUTE COUNTRY CLUB**

Saturday, May 1, 1999, 6:30 p.m.

Cash Bar-6:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

**Music by John Spicknall**

"God Bless America"	Laurel Fischbaum
Blessing	Rabbi Paul Tuchman
Dinner	
Introductory Remarks	Herman Koren
Welcome	President Andrew Farber
Proclamation	Mayor Jim Jenkins
Acceptance of Proclamation	President Elect Irving Haber

**A Presentation of Terre Haute Jewish Leadership**

Arts	Alane Meis
Business	Beatzy Becker
Community Service	Ed Wormser
Education	Karl Zucker
Medicine	Irving Haber
Philanthropy	Jerry Einsteadig

**Honor Recipients for Lifelong Service**

Nelson Cohen  
Max Einsteadig  
Carolyn Gurman

Concluding Remarks	President Andrew Farber
Benediction	Rabbi Paul Tuchman

**Lafayette Klezmerim Band with Becky Kaplan, soloist**



**1849**  
**5609**

**150th Anniversary of the Jewish Community  
Terre Haute, Indiana**

**1999**  
**5759**

**150th Anniversary Celebration Committees**

**Commemorative Book**

Lana Haber, Chairperson  
Betsy Frank, Gloria Sher,  
Ed Wormser, Saul Stevens

**Communications**

Allane Zucker, Chairperson  
Sunny Cohen, Laurel Fischbaum,  
Vera Fortner, Anne Gurman,  
Maureen Krause, Patty Lewis

**Dinner Dance**

Jeannie Farber, Chairperson

**Historical Research**

Max Einsteadig, Chairperson  
Beatzy Becker, Herman Koren

**Library Display**

Max Einsteadig, Chairperson  
Beatzy Becker, Ben Benjaminov  
Bess Einsteadig, Edna Ruth Gilmore  
Louise & Walter Sommers

**Publications & Advertisement**

Ed Wormser, Chairperson  
Herman Koren

**Oneg Shabbat and Kiddush**

Patty Lewis, Chairperson  
Renee Benjaminov  
Sunny Cohen, Laurel Fischbaum,  
Anne Gurman, Allane Zucker

**Community Ticket Sales**

Saul Stevens, Chairperson  
Irving Haber,  
John Pliskin

**Video**

provided by Jeannie Farber

**Welcoming Committee**

Ed Wormser, Chairperson  
Betsy Frank

**Logo Design**

Professor Alma Mary Anderson, CSC  
Art Department  
Indiana State University

**Special Thanks**

Prof. Anderson for designing and assembling the Commemorative Book  
Norma Collins, Temple Secretary  
Vigo County Historical Society  
Vigo County Library

## A BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE HISTORY OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY OF TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

The Terre Haute Jewish Community has been a major influence for good locally, regionally, and nationally. Our people have had a substantial impact on the health, education, culture and economy of West Central Indiana. A Jewish person is part of a 4000 year old tradition and a member of an extended family of Jewish people who believe in one living God, and who through communal practices and rituals work together for the betterment of the entire Jewish community, and the outer community. This is accomplished through prayer, the study of Torah, and charity.

The first written record of a Jewish presence in Terre Haute dates from 1827 with the purchase of land by the attorney Samuel Judah of Vincennes. Mr. Judah later became an Indiana legislator, representing the local district and rising to become Speaker of the 25th General Assembly of the State of Indiana.

In 1845 David H. Arnold and others purchased a piece of land at First Street and Eighth Avenue for a burial ground. In 1849 they formed the Terre Haute Israelite Burial Society a verein, which is a Jewish mutual benefit society. This was the beginning of communal and religious Jewish life in Terre Haute. David H. Arnold became the president of the organization, and for the next nine years he led the Jewish community. He also led the community in the early 1860's.

Rabbi Isaac Mayer Wise, founder of the American Reform Jewish movement, first came to Terre Haute July 10, 1856. He found about 20 Jewish families in town. At that time Rabbi Wise described Terre Haute Jews as sober, industrious, intelligent people respected by their neighbors. He said, "Judaism is forgotten nowhere...it demonstrates its vitality and unabated energy. The Jew remains attached to his faith in the western worlds..."

In 1858 the burial society formally organized as the Jewish Congregation and Burial Society, called the Zions Gemeinde. Charles Alshuler, one of the original founders of the burial society, became the president. The first synagogue, which later became the Reform Temple Israel, was located in Carr's Hall, on the 2nd floor of the Trotsky Building, which was at the southwest corner of 4th and Walnut Streets.

June 8, 1868, the Gan Eden Lodge #110 of the independent order of B'nai B'rith was founded. In 1872, the Hebrew Ladies Benevolent Aid Society was founded, as well as the Jewish Aid Society. They took over the charitable work performed by Jewish people for all members of the Terre Haute community. This was done long before there was organized charity. In 1886, fifteen men formed the first Orthodox Synagogue B'nai Abraham. It was located in a rental hall at 11th and Wabash. H. G. Goldberg was the first president. In 1886, the Phoenix Club was formed.

Jewish people opened stores, became professionals, founded numerous Jewish organizations, participated actively in Terre Haute life and became known for their work ethic and philanthropy. Their contributions far exceeded their numbers.

In 1891 Rabbi Wise returned to Terre Haute to install Rabbi Alexander Lyons as the first full time Rabbi of the Reform congregation. His presentation discussed the "Past, Present and Future" of Jewish life. The first permanent building was at 420 South 4th Street. Rabbi Lyons became known in Terre Haute and the surrounding territory as a notable person and a speaker of great eloquence and power. In 1911 the Reform congregation built its current synagogue at 540 South Sixth Street.

In 1925 the Orthodox congregants decided to build a new synagogue because of their substantial numbers. They dedicated the synagogue in 1926. Their Rabbi was Ralph Hershorn. The congregation then hired both a rabbi, Harry Miller, and a cantor, Eli Katz.

In 1935 the two Terre Haute congregations merged administratively, creating the United Hebrew Congregation\*. This was the first time, to our knowledge, that Reform and Orthodox people worshipped together in the United States. Religious School and Hebrew School were provided using both buildings. They had a Jewish Boy Scout Troop, Agricultural Womens Group, Council of Jewish Juniors, the Temple Ladies Auxiliary, Council of Jewish Women, Temple Sisterhood, B'nai B'rith, a Zionist organization, the Phoenix Country Club, the Jewish Welfare Fund, and a Jewish War Veterans organization (including 90 members). There were 239 member families in 1936.

The Jews of Terre Haute were involved in the life of the general community in music, drama, other arts, law, politics, medicine, education and business. This involvement continues today. Mayor Jim Jenkins has issued a proclamation honoring the Jewish people for these contributions and for their leadership in the philanthropic and charitable organizations of our community. Although the number of families has grown and then decreased over the 150 years, there remains a strong Jewish presence in Terre Haute.

On April 30 and May 1, 1999, we celebrate the 150th Anniversary of Terre Haute Jewish life. The president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, Rabbi Eric Yoffie, will set forth our challenge for the future when he takes Rabbi Isaac Mayer Wise's title, the "Past, Present and Future" of Jewish life. Rabbi Yoffie's visit and address is confirmation of the contributions to community, state and nation, and is an example of what small city Jewish people have accomplished throughout the country and anticipation of what they will accomplish in the new century.

March 1999

\* The president of the merged congregation was Ben Blumberg and the rabbi was Joseph Marshall Taxay.



1849  
5609

150th Anniversary of the Jewish Community  
Terre Haute, Indiana

1999  
5759

